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Message Text

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61
ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE

REF: STATE 246810 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY.EMBOFF DISCUSSED SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OCTOBER 20 AND WITH CIVILAVIA OCTOBER 21. NO RPT NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN REACHED BUT, ACCORDING CIVILAVIA, DECISION WILL BE TAKEN THIS WEEK. MOST LIKELY OUTCOME IS APPROVAL ON CONDITION THAT SEABOARD OPERATE DC-8 OVER ENTIRE ROUTE WITHOUT CHANGE OF GUAGE AT FRANKFURT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET WITH MFA REP FIACCADORI (DIRECTOR, CIVAIR AFFAIRS) EVENING OF OCTOBER 20 TO DISCUSS SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULES, LEAVING NOTE VERBALE TO INDICATE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG VIEWS THIS MATTER. NOTE EMPHASIZED (AS SUGGESTED REFTEL) THAT LATE FILING ITSELF NOT RPT NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL OF SEABOARD SCHEDULE AND POINTED OUT THAT ALITALIA SCHEDULES HAVE IN PAST BEEN SUBMITTED LATE WITHOUT USG PENALIZING ALITALIA.

3. EMBOFF HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH CIVILAVIA REP PILATI (OIC, SCHEDULES, ON OCTOBER 21. PILATI SAID CIVILAVIA HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHAT TO DO ABOUT SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE, BUT THAT SITAJOLO (NUMBER TWO AT CIVILAVIA) WOULD DECIDE
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SOMETIME THIS WEEK, I.E., NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 25. AC-

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CORDING PILATI, CIVILAVIA HAS THREE PROBLEMS WITH SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE: (1) IT WAS FILED LATE; (2) IT PROVIDES FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CAPACITY; AND (3) IT INVOLVES CHANGE OF GAUGE AT FRANKFURT. CIVILAVIA CONSIDERS LATE FILING A MINOR PROBLEM AND NO RPT NO GROUNDS FOR DISAPPROVAL. BUT CHANGE OF GAUGE AT FRANKFURT -- WHICH PILATI NOTED IS INCONSISTENT WITH PROVISIONS OF JUNE 22, 1970 EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON "CHANGE OF GAUGE" AND "BEHIND THE GATEWAY" SERVICES -- PERMITS SUBSTANTIAL DE FACTO CAPACITY INCREASE, SINCE ENTIRE DC-8 CAPACITY ON MILAN-FRANKFURT SHUTTLE SERVICE CAN BE USED TO CARRY CARGO FROM MILAN. PREVIOUSLY, DC-8 HAD TO RESERVE SPACE FOR CARGO FROM INTERMDEIATE POINTS. PILATE SAID THAT, HAD SEABOARD SCHEDULE NOT RPT NOT RPOVIDED FOR CHANGE OF GAGUE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROVED LONG AGO.

4. PILATI STRONGLY IMPLIED THAT CIVILAVIA (SITAJOLO) WOULD APPROVE SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE ON CONDITION THAT SEABOARD OPERATE DC-8 OVER ENTIRE ROUTE WITHOUT CHANGE OF GAUGE AT FRANKFURT. THE OTHER (SLIGHT) POSSIBILITY IS THAT CIVILAVIA WILL APPROVE SCHEDULE AS FILED. EMBOFF PUSHED HARD FOR LATTER DECISION.

5. LOCAL SEABOARD REP (BASED IN MILAN) AND SEABOARD VICE PRESIDENT STEVENS HAVE ALREADY DISCUSSED WINTER SCHEDULE SITUATION WITH CIVILAVIA. LOCAL SEABOARD REP CURRENTLY PERSONA NON GRATA AT ALITALIA; IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ATTEMPT BY LOCAL SEABOARD REP TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH ALITALIA WOULD BE WASTE OF TIME EVEN IF HE COULD OBTAIN APPOINTMENT.

6. COMMENT. UNLESS THERE IS SOME LEVERAGE WHICH CAN BE EXERTED BY USG ON ALITALIA RE ITS WINTER SCHEDULES OF SOME EQUIVALENT SITUATION, EMBASSY SEES ONLY VERY SMALL CHANCE THAT CIVILAVIA WILL APPROVE SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE AS FILED. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROTECT INTERESTS OF US CARRIERS WHEN THEY NEITHER CONSULT IN ADVANCE ON MATTERS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE NOR OBSERVE PROPER PROCEDURES IN FILING SCHEDULES. HAD SEABOARD WINTER SCHEDULE INCLUDING CHANGE OF GAUGE BEEN FILED PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 18-19 WINTER CAPACITY CONSULTATIONS, CHANCES OF APPROVAL WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH HIGHER SINCE IT COULD HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AT CONSULTATIONS IN TANDEM WITH
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